

## **SC Victim Service Coordinating Council MEETING MINUTES**

9:30 am-noon, November 6, 2007  
Edgar Brown Bldg. Rm 415, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC

**Present:** Nancy Barton, William Bilton, Hope Blackley, Vicki Bourus, Marvin Bryant, Dottie Cronise, Barbara Grissom, Dean Kilpatrick, Surleaner Smith, Ashlie Lancaster, BJ Nelson, Tricia Phaup, Bob Rightsell, Shannon Staley, Veronica Swain, Sandi Wofford.

The meeting was called to order and the contractor read a statement regarding VSCC operation in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. Bob moved to approve FOIA compliance, and Dean seconded; compliance was approved by unanimous consent.

The next item on the agenda was approval of minutes. Bob moved to approve minutes, Barbara seconded, and minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Bob motioned that discussion of nominations of a crime victim representative be tabled until the end of the meeting; this was approved by unanimous consent.

Committee updates included Ashlie's summary of a legislative proposal drafted from work of the committees on compensation and on standards. The legislation is being prepared as a freestanding bill and as an amendment to an existing bill.

Nancy reported on progress of the safety-and-accountability-audit committee. The committee suggested development of a proposal for federal funding as one consideration for garnering funds that would be needed to implement pilot audits.

Discussion of priorities for the coming year began with a straw poll regarding VSCC members' top three priorities. Options demonstrating the most support included development of certification standards, development procedures to ensure that victims are notified and that agencies receive impact statements, and development of a legislative committee for ongoing review/refinements to legislation. These topics will be a major focus of research and training for the next meeting, and other topics will remain under consideration for future prioritization. Dottie requested that the contractor specifically research liability issues in certification. The contractor will send all VSCC members a solicitation for input regarding research needs and potential national speakers for the next meeting.

Bob introduced information on pending legislation concerning confidentiality. Dean motioned to accept the changes proposed, and Marvin seconded. The motion passed with members opposed including Barbara, Sandi, Surleaner, and Veronica.

Veronica nominated Sylvia Allen-Ouzts to serve as a crime victim representative for the VSCC. Ms. Allen-Ouzts was approved, with Bob and Shannon abstaining from the vote.

Ashlie noted that she will appoint Joanna Katz as the SOVA-appointed representative.

Ashlie made a motion that interim business such as organizing a press conference for introduction of legislation could be handled via email communications. Marvin seconded, and all approved.

A full day meeting date was set for Thursday, January 24; however, after the meeting, a member who had been out of the room noted a potential conflict with the date. Since new members Joanna Katz, Sylvia Allen-Outz, Jeff Moore, and Shannon Staley will be invited and receive more formal introduction to the council at that time, it is important to choose a date that most may attend. Email communications will be used to finalize the next meeting date.

Marvin motioned to adjourn and Vicki seconded; all approved.